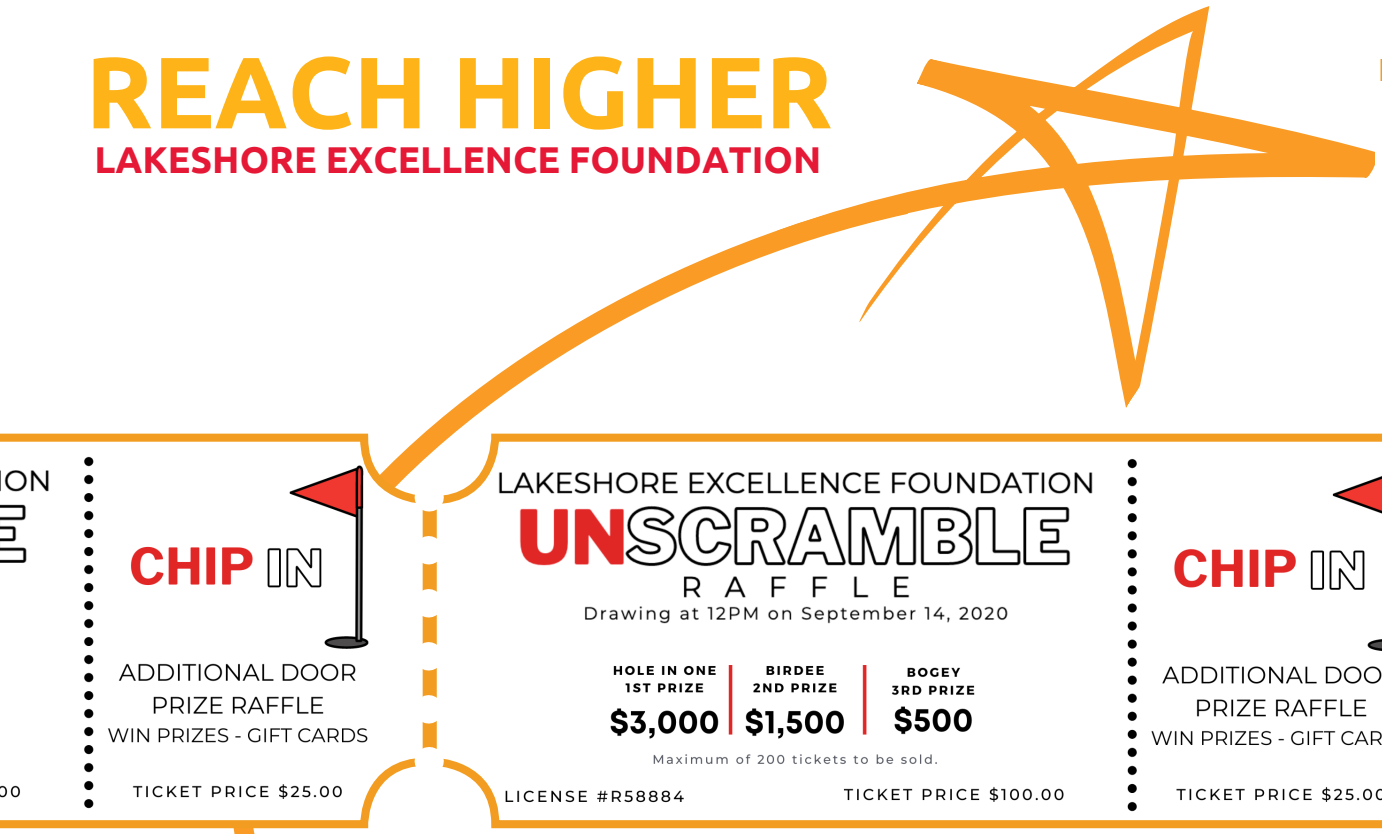
REACH HIGHER

LAKESHORE EXCELLENCE FOUNDATION

FALL 2020



2 TYPES OF TICKETS: LEFunscramble.givesmart.com

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION

We say "farewell" to three amazing board members as their terms have been served. We thank you all!

SHARON AUSTIN
KIM THOMPSON
NAOMI VENTURA

READ MORE PAGE 2.

SECOND STEP LEARNING SKILLS THAT LAST.

It's more than just classroom curriculum.

SEL is the process through which children and adults understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.

READ MORE PAGE 4.

TRUSTEES

JC Anderson
Sophie Bauchet
Ludo Beaufils
Kate Beckrow
Zeb Deitrich
Chad Deja
Ray Elmore
Phil Freeman
Rachel Hall
Jeff Hannan
Janine Harrison
Lori Marciniak
Elizabeth Meeth
Phil Molloy
Kameron Morris
Julia Pechtel
Jennifer Powers
Dana Riley
Jim Roberts
Bill Scaletta
Laurie Schmidt
Lori VonKoenig
Kris Weber
Kathleen Wolf

LEF
LAKESHORE EXCELLENCE FOUNDATION

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF OUR COMMITTED BOARD MEMBERS

Thank you to three Board members who have given outstanding service to the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation.

All three have been extremely valuable Board members. We will miss their dedication and shining personalities!

Sharon Austin

Kim Thompson

Naomi Ventura

SHARON AUSTIN: has been our keeper of the financial books as our Treasurer. She has helped us manage our growth in an annual net fundraising contribution to the school of approximately $550,000. We all slept very comfortably knowing that we had Sharon watching the numbers for us. Thank you Sharon!

KIM THOMPSON: has been our Vice President of Marketing for her entire time on the Board. We were in a critical need for a strategic and tactical marketing professional to help develop and market the LEF as an entity, to "market" our fundraisers, and our major projects. Kim has also recruited additional professional marketers to our Board and she leaves with the LEF in a much better marketing position than when we recruited her to help us. Thank you Kim!

NAOMI VENTURA: has been almost a one person show with our Art Around Town program. She has very professionally administered the program within the school, had the entries judged by community individuals, had the framed artwork placed within local businesses, and celebrated the artists with a showing at the Curious Kids' Museum. We do need a replacement for Naomi so anyone with an artistic interest please call and we will have Naomi fill you in on what is required. Thank you Naomi!

ATTENTION: LAKESHORE ALUMNI

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and + Join Group

Register for Email Updates Today!
lefonline.org/alumni/get-registered

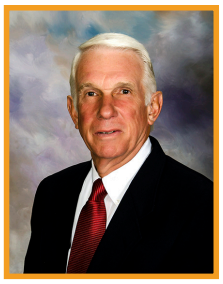
LAKESHORE Alumni

Like us on Facebook

LAKESHORE EXCELLENCE FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT FUND

The Endowment Fund is our long-term strategy to funding the LEF mission of learning for generations to come. Annually, the LEF Board evaluates the health of the fund, makes contributions based on giving and project needs, and reinvests the earned interest. If you are interested in learning more about the Endowment Fund, please contact J.C. Anderson at (269) 921-2513 or email at anderjcna@gmail.com.

LEF LAKESHORE EXCELLENCE FOUNDATION



J.C. Anderson, LEF Chairman

UNPRECEDENTED... A Word Redefined for All of Us This Year!

To the Lakeshore Public School Community and the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation Supporters ... I think that all of us will say that this year will be remembered as an unprecedented year, unfortunately for all of the wrong reasons.

We have dealt with an unprecedented ...

- Global pandemic, that has led to illnesses and deaths, still with no vaccine developed
- Closure of our economy, putting many families in economic hardship
- Closure of our schools, leading to distance learning and a new appreciation for our teachers
- A $650 per student anticipated reduction in state funding for the upcoming school year
- And, based on all of the above, an unprecedented challenge for the LEF to raise funds to support our schools

Our LEF revenue this year has been severely reduced by the cancellation of two Whirlpool golf outings that had contributed $185,000, the cancellation of our LEF Golf Scramble which had raised $27,000, and our concerns regarding the continued contributions of some of our Lancer Leaders, which represents approximately $62,500. Couple these reductions with the anticipated loss of school funding of $650 per student from the State of Michigan and we realize an even greater gap. Our excellent Superintendent, Phil Freeman, is working long hours in an effort to make sense out of the financial challenges and the new health/safety mandates for the 2020/2021 school year.

In light of these challenges to our revenue and funding sources, LEF is taking the following proactive steps:

1. **We are developing a new fundraising event called the UNSCRAMBLE.** The UNSCRAMBLE is a raffle where LEF will sell 200 tickets at $100 each with three monetary prizes: $3,000, $1,500, and $500. We also had accumulated 61 door prizes for the Golf Scramble and these will also be raffled off with a ticket price of $25. The drawings will take place at noon on September 14th ... the day our Golf Scramble was originally rescheduled at Harbor Shores. Please consider purchasing a raffle ticket by going to ... **LEFunscramble.givesmart.com**. Stay tuned in to our website at LEFOnline.org or follow our Facebook page to learn more about this event.

2. **We have reallocated some LEF funds to assist our Lakeshore staff with the purchase of supplies to begin the school year.** LEF will allocate $45,000 to support the needs within our elementary and middle/high school. A portion of this money will pay for kits that will facilitate hands-on learning for the elementary students, both in the classroom and at home. At the middle school and high school level, teachers will each receive $250 to purchase classroom supplies. LEF is committed to funding excellence in our educational experiences, for our students and staff.

3. **In an attempt to be sensitive to the varying personal and/or business situations this year experienced by our Lancer Leaders, the LEF made two overtures in April.** 1) For those who had already made their 2020 contributions, LEF offered to return that contribution. *(We received only one request for a return.)* 2) For those who had not yet made a contribution, an offer to remain a Lancer Leader without any 2020 contribution with a request to acknowledge that intent by May 31. *(We received only one acknowledgment of that intent.)* We continue to be grateful for the support of our Lancer Leaders.

My comments are meant to provide a realistic assessment of where we stand as individuals, as a community, as a school system, and as the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation.

My message is very simple. In these unprecedented times, the need for financial support of our school system via the LEF (which may be tax deductible) is greater now than it ever has been based on the funding reduction from the State and the budget gaps created. For those of you who have already made a contribution, thank you. For those of you who are pondering all of the economic dynamics in play at this time, we hope that you still consider a contribution to the LEF. There is no better investment than kids and their education. In these unprecedented times, the financial need is now critical!

J.C. Anderson, LEF Chairman
anderjcna@gmail.com
(269) 921-2513

LEARNING SKILLS TO LAST A LIFETIME

Most Monday nights this summer you could find Roosevelt Elementary School Counselor Megan Hines, LPC, preparing to hop online for her weekly zoom call with school families. From reading out loud to students, to sharing calming techniques and journaling challenges, each online meeting had one major goal in mind- to help everyone involved reduce their level of stress, and improve the connections they have with each other.

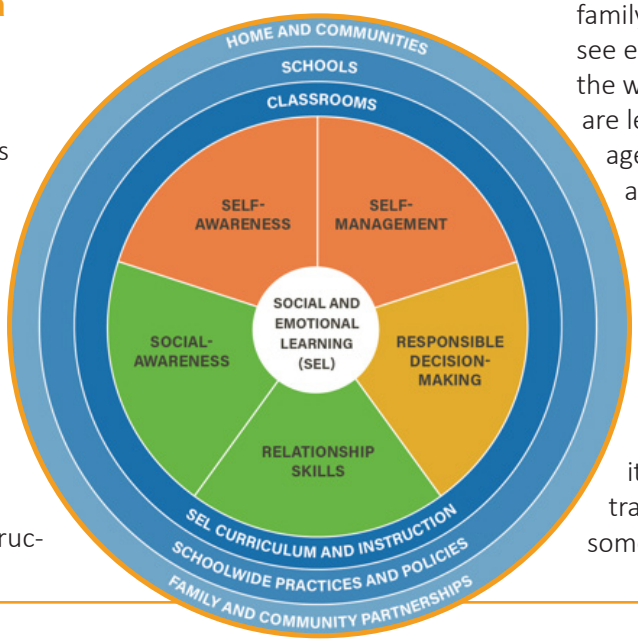
"A strong, connected family is one of the most powerful, protective factors for resilience and overcoming trauma, and we certainly are experiencing global trauma right now," said Hines. "While we often joke about how stressed out we are, it takes a serious toll on our physical health, mental health, and our relationships. Learning how to cope with stress in healthy ways is a crucial skill that all people need."

Thanks to a special grant from the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation, Hines and Lakeshore's two other elementary school counselors, Paula Hazzard-Reed and Dayna Galloway, are able to bring this special data-driven curriculum to parents, teachers, and students during the school year as well. The program, called "Second Step" is rooted in social-emotional learning, or SEL. Hines says while the school district's counseling program has always offered a solid curriculum, research shows Second Step provides developmentally appropriate social skills instruction that helps children thrive.

"It's more than just classroom curriculum," says Hines. "Second Step's holistic approach helps create a more empathetic society by providing educational professionals, families, and the larger community with tools to enable them to take an active role in the social-emotional growth and safety of today's children."

Some of these tools might include teaching kids proper breathing techniques to help them self-soothe, or allowing students to use colors, shapes, or patterns to describe how they are feeling. Students who have a hard time expressing their emotions may be more comfortable pointing them out on a mood wheel. And SEL techniques can be seen outside the elementary classroom as well, through Yoga classes, Lakeshore Middle School's "Positivity Project", Lakeshore High School's "Lancer Link" program, and last November's LEF sponsored public event "Healthy Minds, Healthy Lives," which focused on social media and anxiety.

"We had local presenters that brought a wealth of information to our families, and I thought it was a perfect start to a much needed community conversation," said Hines. "These skills are essential not only to create and maintain positive relationships, but SEL has also been linked to an increase in academic performance, improved behavior, as well as protective factors in regard to violence, addiction, and mental health."



Hines says it takes a team-approach to truly make SEL work. That's why she's urging parents to get involved with the online sessions, and learn more about what students are exploring during their SEL sessions at school. She says when parents learn the keys to managing their own stress, they can pass those abilities down to their students.

"I truly believe that our strong belief in SEL is what makes our schools feel like family," says Hines. "I see evidence of this in the way our children are learning to manage strong feelings and develop their courage and make healthy decisions. When we empower families to teach these skills to our children early, it truly has the trajectory to change someone's life."

"READING MATTERS" GOES REMOTE WITH FAMOUS AUTHOR

Author Lesa Cline-Ransome answers questions from Lori Kuntz's students.

Books have the ability to capture our attention, transport us to far away places, even make us feel like we are right in the middle of an historic event.

But ever read a book and wonder about the author's inspiration for writing it, or why they chose certain traits for your favorite character? Some very lucky 4th graders from Roosevelt Elementary School got the chance to find out first hand thanks to the handiwork of their teacher, Lori Kuntz.

"I wanted to give them that interactive opportunity during remote learning," said Kuntz. "Prior to the closing of school, I ordered some chapter books for our upcoming historical fiction series, and one of those books was 'Finding Langston.' The plan was to use it for one of the small group book clubs, but when I read it I just knew the whole class had to experience it!"

"Finding Langston," by award winning author Lesa Cline-Ransome, follows an eleven-year-old boy after his father moves them from their home in Alabama to Chicago in 1946. The book addresses social injustice, the Second Great Migration, the Harlem Renaissance, and the impact of arts and influences from African-American culture. Kuntz says she reached out to Cline-Ransome to get permission to read the book, virtually. That connection turned into so much more, when Cline-Ransom decided to listen in to Kuntz's daily Facebook Live book readings, and even attend a Google Meet, where some of the students got to ask the famous author their own questions.

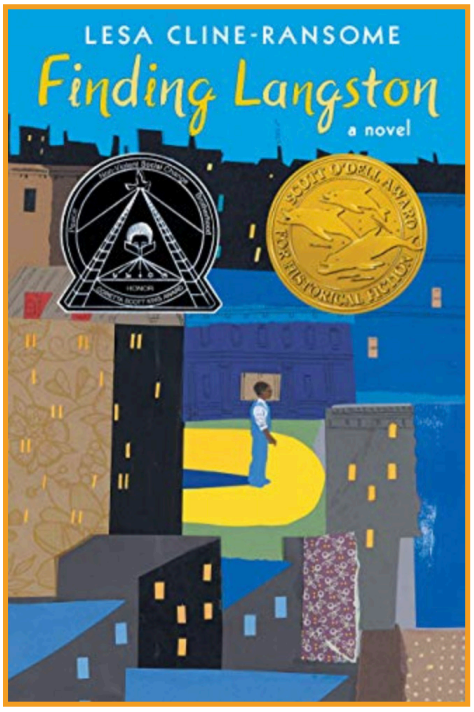
"We were honored and thrilled to meet her," said Kuntz. "The students had quite a few questions for her about the writing process, where she came up with this story, how long she researched - which was quite insightful for them as readers and writers."

Kuntz was able to purchase Cline-Ransome's books thanks to the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation's Reading Matters program. Over the past two years, the program has funneled $300,000 into Lakeshore's K-12 reading curriculum in the form of new books for every classroom.

"LEF's ability to support this is huge," said Kuntz. "I remember when I was an administrator coming back from the Reader's Workshop trying to get our hands on the suggested books mentioned in the curriculum, and we didn't have the funds to do it. Now thanks to 'Reading Matters' we have the ability to make these purchases. As a teacher, knowing how important it is to have these words right in front of the kids while I'm reading it in class is such a blessing."

Kuntz's class also read "Finding Langston's" companion novel "Leaving Lymon." Kuntz says each book gave her students valuable insight into the importance of equality, and how they could apply it to their own lives. Thanks to some creativity on her part, and a grant from the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation, this is one remote learning opportunity that will inspire this group of students for years to come.

"[Cline-Ransome's] writing is so special in the way she can emit feelings and empathy and describe a situation," says Kuntz. "I think my students felt empowered by the opportunity to meet her. A lot of the students said afterward that they wanted to become better writers, and read more of her stories. I think this is an experience they will always remember."



INTRODUCING THE NEW AND IMPROVED LAKESHORE COMMUNITY AUDITORIUM!

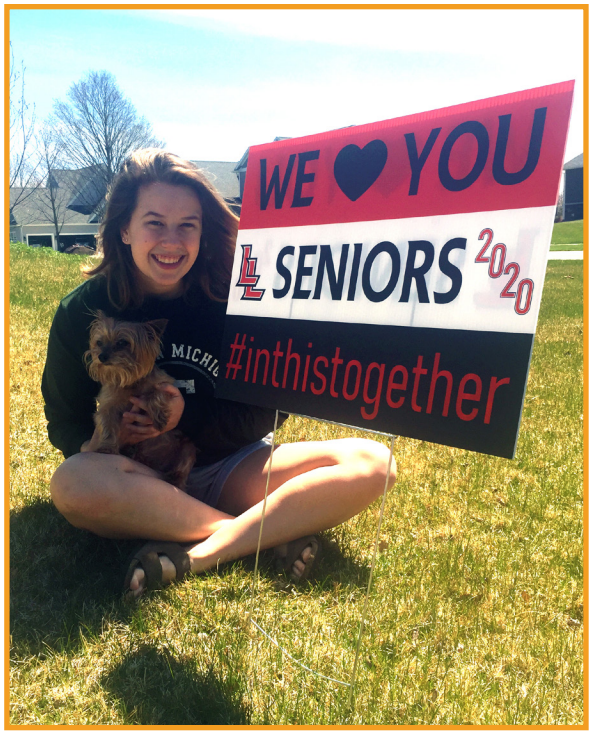
The Lakeshore Excellence Foundation is always looking for opportunities to impact as many people as we can with the dollars we raise. LEF chose to fund the auditorium improvements because of the reach and impact. The auditorium is used by students, staff and the community.

LEF proudly funded the following improvements:

- Lobby Renovation
- Video wall
- Digital poster boards
- Ticket booth facelift
- Benches
- Lighting and decor upgrades
- Stage
- Repairs to the counterweight fly system
- New stage curtains
- Video
- New projector
- New video switching and control system
- Sound
- New wireless microphones
- New speakers
- New audio and video playback control system
- Lighting
- New architectural lighting system
- Replacement of stage lighting; Upgrading to LED
- Upgrades to the current lighting console

Once the dust has settled and the Lakeshore Community Auditorium is back in use, we hope you'll enjoy your experience and enjoy the upgrades as you take in a show or attend an award ceremony.

The Lakeshore Community Auditorium while work was in progress.



LEF was proud to support the purchase of signs that recognized the graduating Seniors in the class of 2020!

The Lakeshore Public Schools community is a wonderful area to live, work, raise your children, and an EXCELLENT place for education.

WHAT is LEF?

We are an all-volunteer non-profit 501c(3) established in 1997 to work independently, yet collaboratively, with Lakeshore Public Schools and the Board of Education. Our mission is to "acquire and distribute resources in support of Lakeshore Public Schools for programs and projects aimed at enriching or supplementing learning opportunities for students, staff, and the community."

Funds raised by LEF support projects and grants impacting students and teachers throughout the district. Examples of LEF programs:

- **Grants**- Consisting of Foundation Projects, Staff Support, Professional Development, and the Patti Florian Student Enrichment grants. The total 2020 Grants budget is $250,000.
- **Reading Matters**- Initiated in 2018, this project provides for overall improvement to the reading curriculum for grades K-12. The goal is for every student to read at their grade level, find personal joy and interest in reading, and realize the life-long benefits of reading. This is a 3 year, $300,000 investment in our students.
- **Auditorium Updates**- Our newest BIG project involves much-needed updates to our high school auditorium. The auditorium serves many purposes all year long including musicals, band concerts, community education, academic awards and recognition events to name a few. The Auditorium is truly a community space. Our investment in this project is $660,000.

Learn more about LEF

Visit our website: LEFonline.org
Follow us on Facebook @LakeshoreExcellence
Read our newsletter in the *Lakeshore Light*
Contact our Chairman, J.C. Anderson (anderjcna@gmail.com)

WHY is LEF important to Lakeshore?

The state funding for public schools in Michigan continues to be a challenge and Lakeshore is in the bottom 25% in funding. Yes, 75% of Michigan public school districts receive more state funding on a revenue per student basis!

HOW can you be involved with LEF?

MAKE A FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION:

- Lancer Leader ($1,000+) Contributor
- Auditorium and Reading Matters Contributor
- General Fund or Endowment Contributor

VOLUNTEER TO HELP WITH SPECIAL LEF PROJECTS AND EVENTS

YOU SHOP. AMAZON GIVES.

Do you shop on Amazon.com? Did you know you can buy the exact same items, at the same price, and LEF will receive a percentage of your sale?

Simply go to Smile.Amazon.com and choose Lakeshore Excellence Foundation as your charitable organization.

MAKE YOUR ONLINE SHOPPING COUNT!

It's as simple as going to:

smile.amazon.com

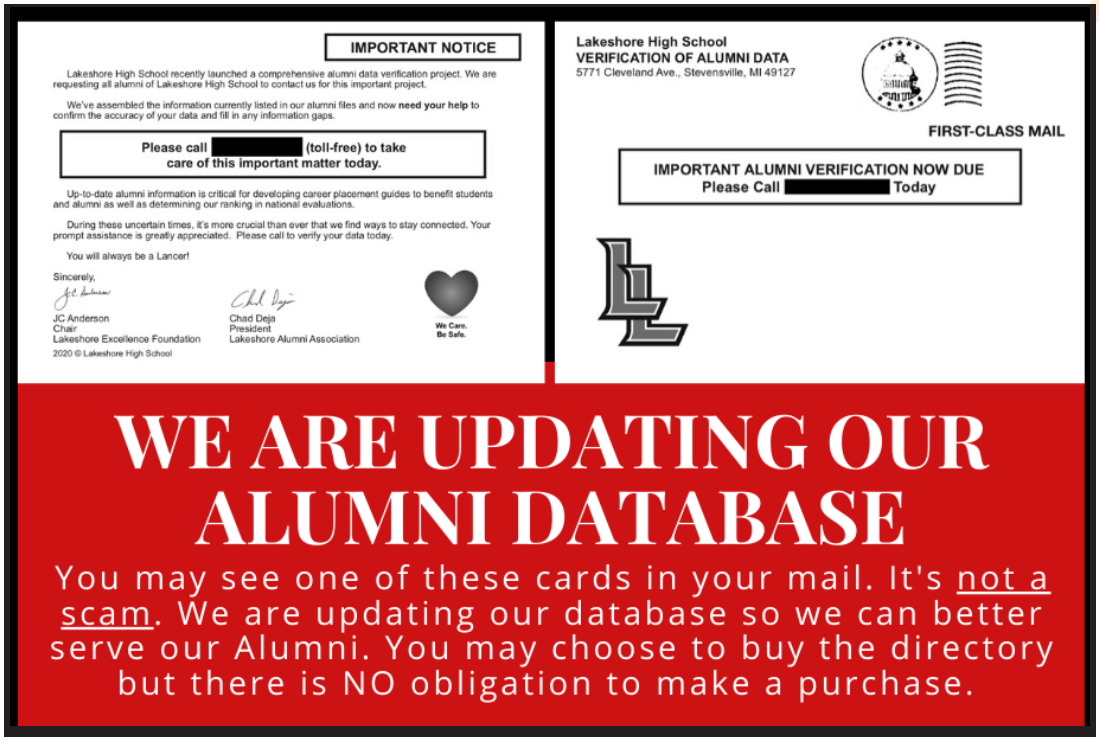
amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

WELCOME TO THE BOARD!

Lori VonKoenig

Lori VonKoenig

Lori is an alumna of Lakeshore High School and has a BA from Western Michigan University in Music Education and a MA in Counseling and Educational Psychology. Lori and her husband Edward have two children, Ben and Elise, and three grandchildren. Ben is a 2006 graduate of Lakeshore, served in the United States Marine Corps and is a graduate of Michigan State University. Elise is a 2010 graduate of Lakeshore and is a graduate of Western Michigan University. Lori just retired from Lakeshore Public Schools after 32 years as the Director of Bands. Before coming to Lakeshore she taught at East Grand Rapids and Forest Hills Public Schools. She is a licensed professional counselor and is currently employed as a therapist at Centered on Wellness. She is also a music education consultant and clinician for the Marshall Music Company. Under Lori's leadership the Lakeshore Lancer Marching Band earned eight State Championships and traveled extensively. In addition to teaching music Lori served as the Lakeshore CTE Director for 10 years and started the Lancer Link counseling program in 2019. Lori's first involvement with LEF was in their 1999-2000 inaugural theatrical production of "Wind in the Willows." Lori enjoys gardening, spending time with her family, and spoiling her grandchildren and golden retrievers.


IMPORTANT NOTICE
Lakeshore High School recently launched a comprehensive alumni data verification project. We are requesting all alumni of Lakeshore High School to contact us for this important project.
We've assembled the information currently listed in our alumni files and now need your help to confirm the accuracy of your data and fill in any information gaps.
Please call [redacted] (toll-free) to take care of this important matter today.
Up-to-date alumni information is critical for developing career placement guides to benefit students and alumni as well as determining our ranking in national evaluations.
During these uncertain times, it's more crucial than ever that we find ways to stay connected. Your prompt assistance is greatly appreciated. Please call to verify your data today.
You will always be a Lancer!
Sincerely,
JC Anderson
Chair
Lakeshore Excellence Foundation
Chad Deja
President
Lakeshore Alumni Association
We Care. Be Safe.
2020 © Lakeshore High School
Lakeshore High School
VERIFICATION OF ALUMNI DATA
5771 Cleveland Ave., Stevensville, MI 49127
FIRST-CLASS MAIL
IMPORTANT ALUMNI VERIFICATION NOW DUE
Please Call [redacted] Today
WE ARE UPDATING OUR ALUMNI DATABASE
You may see one of these cards in your mail. It's not a scam. We are updating our database so we can better serve our Alumni. You may choose to buy the directory but there is NO obligation to make a purchase.

You don't want to be left out! If you haven't already done so, please participate in the Alumni Directory update.

The mission of the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation is to acquire and distribute resources that support various Lakeshore Public School programs and projects aimed at enhancing, enriching, or supplementing learning opportunities for students, staff, and community.